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THE
YOUNG ANGLERS'
Companion.

Giving a description of all the different
METHODS of ANGLING,

The Best Baits and Tackle, as well as the Times and Seasons
for using them: Illustrated with

FIFTY ENGRAVINGS ;

Also a description of

TROLLING AND FLY FISHING.

With a correct account of the manner of making Artificial
Flies, Tying Hooks, Repairing Tackle, &c.&c.



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YOUNG & A. G. B. H. H.

COMPANIES

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

AND OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

AND OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF ARIZONA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF IDAHO

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF MONTANA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF WYOMING

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF COLORADO

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF KANSAS

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF NEBRASKA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF MINNESOTA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF IOWA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF MISSOURI

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF ARKANSAS

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF MISSISSIPPI

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF ALABAMA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF GEORGIA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF FLORIDA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF NORTH CAROLINA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF VIRGINIA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF MARYLAND

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF DELAWARE

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF PENNSYLVANIA

AND OF THE TERRITORY OF OHIO

THE YOUNG ANGLERS' COMPANION.

THIS Treatise on angling contains an accurate, but condens'd account of all the approved methods given by the most esteem'd authors on the subject, with such improvements as thirty years experience of the writer can impart; here you will find the theory of the art, but practice is an absolute requisite to make a good angler.

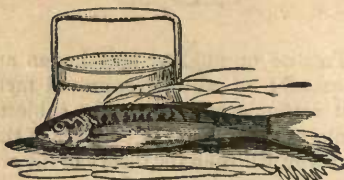
The author of the following pages, having tried all the different methods recommended, under various circumstances, enables him to retain only such, as are likely to increase the success of his brother sportsmen. It is only to such of my readers (if any) who believe in witchcraft, that I could recommend the ridiculous mummerly retain'd in many works, that pretend to entice the fish from their native element, the component parts being only fit for the cauldron of Macbeth's Witches. With the more reasonable devices, such as Cherries, Green Peas, Earth Grubs, &c. I have never succeeded so well as with the baits recommend-ed in this work; the so much praised, spawn of the Salmon, does not succeed, only in such rivers as are frequented by them. If the reader will pay attention to the rules laid down in this work, I have no doubt he will soon be able to compete with the more experienced sportsman.



THE PRICKLEBACK.

has a green back approaching to black, with sharp prickles on it, and grows to about an inch in length; it is useful as a bait for Perch, or small Jack (when you can not get minnows,) they are caught in new made ditches,

cow ponds, &c. You may catch him with a worm and thread, without a hook, as he will hold on while you draw him forth.



THE MINNOW

is of a white silvery color, seldom growing above two inches in length, and ranks high as a bait for Trout, or Perch, I have caught Jack with them, and frequently Chub, but I do not recommend them as a bait when angling for Chub or Jack, unless there are Perch or Trout in the river. To catch Minnows, use a light Rod, a single hair line, about two yards long, with a very small float, carrying only one or two small shot, with the smallest sized hook, and half a red worm, or a blood worm, put your float so as the bait may pass near or on the ground, then drop your line in gently on the shallows near mill tails, or any other eddy where there is a gravelly bottom, and strike the moment they bite; put them in your kettle as soon as caught, by which means you may keep them alive till you want them for baits.



THE LOACH

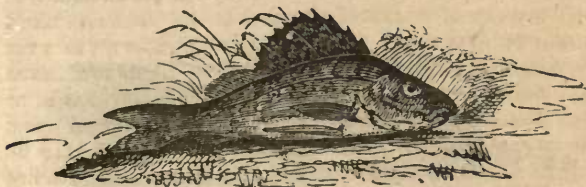
has wattles, or barbs to his jaws, and is something like a Barbel in miniature, both in form and habits; its color similar to the Gudgeon, but not so bright; in size it exceeds the Minnow; it is found in shallow places near the banks of rivers, generally keeping to one spot, lying close

to the ground. The means used for catching them are the same as described for the Minnow with this exception your bait should drag on the ground. They are useful to bait night lines for Eels.



THE BULL HEAD.

This curious little fish in color is darker than the Gudgeon, grows to three or four inches in length, and is to be caught in the same manner, and in the same places as the Loach; like the last it is barely worth the trouble of describing, it is mostly caught when angling for other fish among the rough stones, on shallows near mill tails, &c.



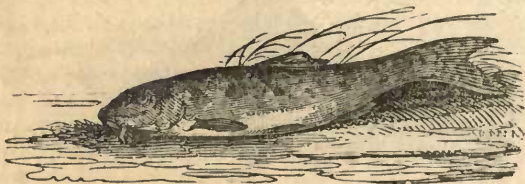
THE RUFF, OR POPE

is the same shape as a small Perch, covered with similar hard scales, but differs much in color being of a light brown on the back, approaching to white on the belly, not having the black bars or red fins like a Perch, but has many small dark spots on the back, tail, and back fin; also two rows of cavities under the jaws, different from any other fish I am acquainted with; I have caught many of them in the rivers Wey and Mole. They lie in the same parts as Gudgeons, are caught by the same means and seldom weigh above four ounces. The river Yare in Norfolk, produces a vast number of them.



THE BLEAK

very much resembles the Sprat in shape, color, and size, is found in most rivers, and easily caught with a house fly on the top of the water, or a gentle on the same tackle as described for minnows, only put the float about a foot above the hook, and strike the moment they bite; you will take plenty of these fish, if you throw in close to your float a few carrion gentles, or any other bait that is light; they are excellent amusement for the young angler, and beget a habit of striking quickly, a thing of great consequence to the Roach-fisher. They are in season all the summer, and their haunts are always in the stream.



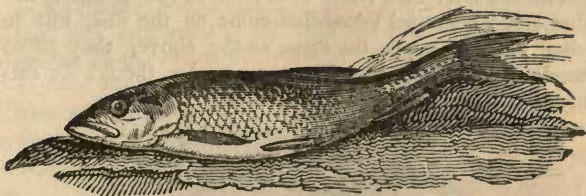
THE GUDGEON

averages about $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces in weight, though some are larger; the color of its back is light brown, mottled with spots of a darker tint, getting lighter towards the belly, which is of a dull white, or purple tinge. The season for gudgeons, commences in March, and lasts till June: after they have spawn'd, they are not so good, though they will feed all the summer. The manner of taking them is the same as described for minnows, only a No.10 or No.11 hook and one red, or two blood worms, on it for a bait, which should touch the ground. You will much increase your sport, by stirring the bottom of the river

where your bait passes, with a rake of this description,



attached to a pole of sufficient length.



THE SMELT

is a lively little fish of a light silvery color, the back being of a pale sandy cast. It is a fish of prey, with strong teeth in its mouth, though seldom growing above four ounces in weight; they frequent Docks, Wharfs, &c. and are angled for with 8 or 10 hooks, about 10 or 12 inches above each other; they will take gentles, or a piece of a small Eel, but the best way is to cut the first Smelt you take into small pieces, and bait with a bit of the fish; you should strike the moment they bite. Your hooks should be about No. 9, and your baits moderately large.



THE ROACH

is a broad, handsome-form'd fish, with a dark green back inclining to brown, the belly of a bright silvery appearance the under fins a fine red; the tail is tinged with the

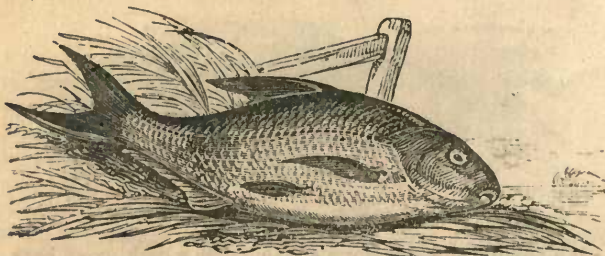
same color; it commonly grows to a pound in weight, and is found in most rivers; they spawn in May, and are in season from June till March. In the summer months they frequent eddies caused by obstructions in the stream, where the water is not too deep; but in autumn they retire to the deepest parts, and remain there till the spring; for the means of catching them see bottom-fishing.

The RUDD, or POND ROACH is, (as its name implies,) of a beautiful vermillion color on the fins, but in other respects much the same as the above; they afford excellent amusement to the young angler, though for eating, they are inferior to the healthy river fish.



THE DACE

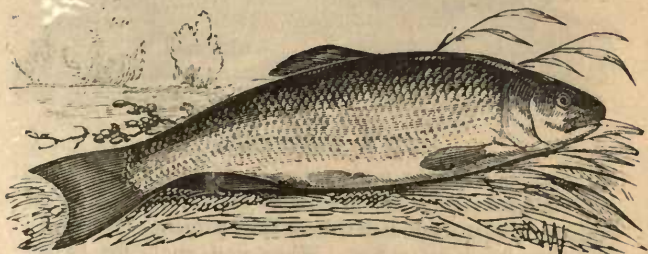
is of a bright silvery hue, cover'd with smaller scales than the Roach, and averages in weight from four to six ounces, but in some streams they grow larger; they feed during the spring and summer on the shallows where the water runs sharp, at mill tails, &c. In the autumn they retire to deeper water, and mix with the Roach, but do not feed well in winter; they spawn about April.



THE BREAM

has large scales, and is formed something like a Roach,

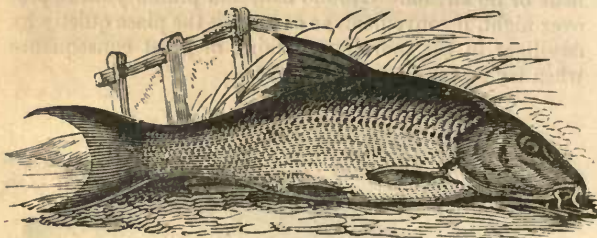
only broader; the fins are of a pale sandy color, the back and tail inclining to a bluish cast; the sides and belly of those under a pound in weight are whiter, but not so bright or silvery as the Dace; when they grow large, (say 4 lbs.) the scales and color resemble those of a Carp. It has a large eye the pupil of which is jet black. They spawn about the end of April. Your tackle should be the same as for Roach, your hook No. 9 see pond and bottom fishing. The only parts fit for Bream fishing are in still broad places, or the bends of rivers, in the eddies where there is little or no stream. Ground bait, and plumb your depth, over night, if convenient, so as to visit the place quietly by day-light in the morning; a thing of great consequence when trying for Carp. Tench, &c.



THE CHUB.

when small, strongly resembles the Dace, but as it grows larger the head and mouth expand more in proportion than the body, by which it loses much of its beauty; they commonly grow to four lbs. sometimes 7 or 8; the large ones are yellower than the small, and approach nearer the color of a Carp; they spawn the end of April, after which they are not worth catching till the autumn. The principal means, and by far the best used for the purpose of taking Chub during the winter months, is as follows: get a quantity of bullock's brains, or some of the white pith out of the back bone. Having plumb'd your depth, throw in a little of the brains, beat up with something to make it sink, and put a piece about the size of a filbert on your

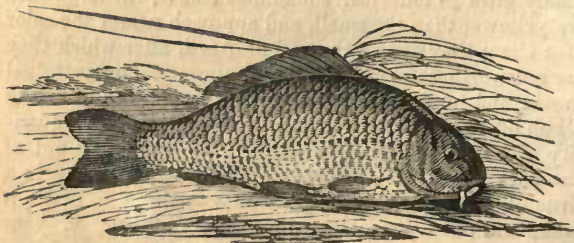
hook; (they like a large bait.) Strike the moment they bite; if you do not soon catch one, try another place; if you take one or two, and they leave off biting, do the same, as they are easily frightened away, but they will soon return; in this manner I have taken a great quantity of them. The best plan, if you are not over delicate, is to chew the brains, and spit them out of your mouth into the water where you are angling; they will sink when well chew'd. For other ways of taking Chub, see "Bottom fishing, Minnow fishing, &c."



THE BARBEL

are very plentiful in most rivers immediately connected with the sea; they are generally found round piles of bridges, under banks of rivers that project, as well as at weirs, flood gates &c, When you angle for barbel your bait should drag 2 or 3 inches on the ground.

They spawn about the end of April: in color they resemble the Carp, and like them are not very good eating. The best baits for barbel are greaves, worms, and gentles; you should use a strong No. 9 hook,



THE CARP

is of a golden hue, growing commonly to 5 or 6 lbs. some much larger; it is a native of still waters, though they are occasionally caught in rivers, where they are carried by floods, or the breaking down of sluices, pond heads, &c. (as are some Tench and Rudd,) in which case they thrive well, and eat finer and fatter than the pond Carp. You may fish for them during the months of May, June, July, August and September, the former months being the best. They spawn in June and July, at which time they are to be caught by the following means: have a strong bamboo rod, with the stiff top, no winch; the line 2 yards long of strong gut; a quill float to carry 7 or 8 shots, which should be put only two inches above your hook; then bring your float down within 2 or 3 inches of your shots; bait with a caterpillar or well-scoured red worm: thus prepared, proceed to the places where the broad leaved wild water-lily or candock weed grows, which is plentiful in most waters where Carp and Tench breed; here they swim about close to the top of the water, sucking and making a noise that is plainly distinguished; you must let your hook, which should be a strong No. 8, with the worm, fall in between the leaves where they grow thick, your shot will push down the bait; when a fish bites, he will take it straight down; you must strike immediately, and weigh him out, or these weeds which are very strong, will cause you to lose him; by this plan you perceive that your bait is only four inches from the bottom of your float, but less will do, as they swim quite close to the top at this season of the year. By the same means I have taken a great many Tench, at all hours of the day, using a well-scour'd marsh worm; but the most common method of taking Carp and Tench you will find under the head of "Pond Fishing." The baits for Carp are red worms, the green caterpillar found on cabbages in May and June, paste made of new bread dipped in honey and well worked up, and gentles. I must acknowledge angling for Carp is often attended with disappointment; so much so that I do not wonder at there being very few persons attempt it.

There is a species of this fish call'd prussian Carp very similar to the foregoing in shape and color, (having no

wattles,) but much smaller, generally under six ounces in weight, though in some ponds they grow to a pound.

They are easily caught during the summer months, with a small red or blood worm.



THE TENCH

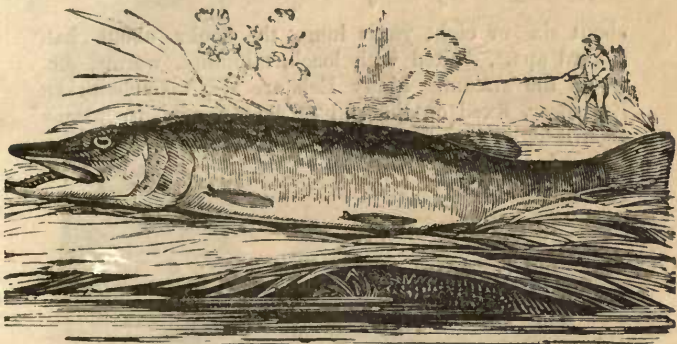
is of a dark color on the back, the sides and belly of a fine green and gold tinge, and commonly reaches 3 or 4 lbs. in weight: they are caught by the same means as Carp. The bait they like best is a well-scoured marsh worm, not too large.



THE PERCH

is a handsome, bold-looking fish, with a fine eye, high back, defended with two fins of a formidable make, being armed with a row of spikes, the lower fins are of a bright vermillion; the back has a row of five or six dark stripes running across it, dying away as they approach the belly, which in river fish is of a silvery whiteness. They are found in ponds, and grow to two or three pounds in weight. Use a gut line, a small cork float, and a No. 6

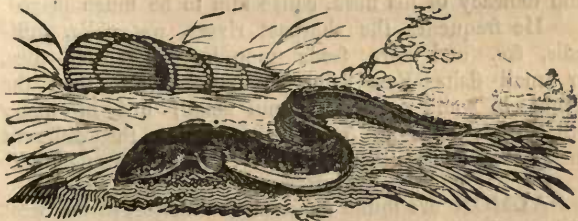
hook; bait with a marsh or brandling worm. and fish in the most quiet parts, by flood gates, mill heads, or where there is little or no stream, as they delight most in such places; your hook should be a little off the bottom, as Perch seldom lie on the ground.



THE JACK

resembles no other fish either in form or color; the head on the top is flat and hard; the jaws large, and full of strong, sharp teeth, as are likewise the throat and tongue, which, inclining inwards, render it impracticable for any animal to escape from his hungry fangs; the color of the back and sides are grey, mottled with large spots of a sandy green cast; the belly is almost white

For the means of taking them see "Trolling" &c.



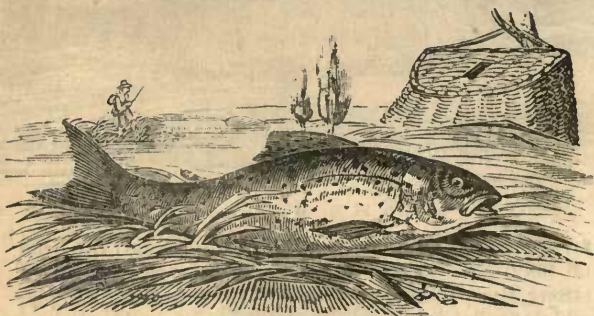
THE EEL

is too well known to need description here. The usual means of taking them, is to let the hook (which should

be baited with a worm) lie upon the ground. Some persons lay night, or chain lines for Eels, made of whipcord, thus--



about six or eight yards long, the hooks about half a yard apart, baited with loach, minnows, worms, &c. across the stream. Many Eels are also taken with an Eel spear, fixed on the end of a long pole, by means of striking it into the mud, among weeds &c.



THE TROUT

is the handsomest of the fresh-water tribe; the delicate tinge of his color, diversified all over with fine crimson spots, the beautiful symmetry of form, rapid motion, and delicacy of his flesh, cause him to be much prized.

He frequents the sharpest rivers, waterfalls, mill-tails, &c. and there feeds upon insects, worms, flies, or small fish. Few fish vary more in size than the Trout: in some rivers they run small, but in many others they grow to 5 or 6 lbs. For the different methods of taking them, see "Fly, and Minnow fishing."



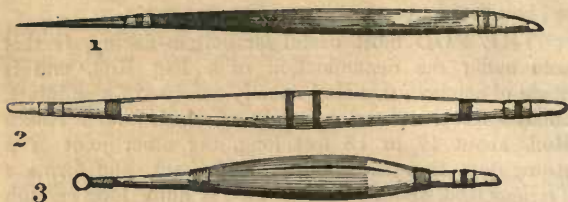
SALMON are found in great abundance, in the west and north of England. They delight in the roughest parts of the stream, and feed upon worms, flies, and small fish, and are caught by the same means as Trout, only your rod, line, and baits must be on a larger scale.

DESCRIPTION OF TACKLE.

THE ROD most useful for bottom-fishing, is that sold under the denomination of a Bag Rod, and is made of bamboo, this Rod usually consists of nine joints, about 2 feet 4 inches long, eight of which form a Roach Rod, about 17 or 18 feet long, the other joint is a strong top, that fits into the sixth joint, and forms a Trolling Rod, about 15 feet, which is quite long enough for that purpose. For fixing the winch on the Rod some use tape, but two brass ferules, answer the purpose much better. The Fly Rod; is generally made of hickory, with a top joint of several pieces jointed together, cut out of the solid part of the large bamboo; the butt is sometimes made of ash. Have the rings pretty close together, as it will keep the line close, and prevent the Rod from having more stress on one part than another; a Fly Rod should play or bend regularly all the way down to the hand and not appear weaker in one part than another. There are common Rods, made of hazel or bamboo, that answer very well for common purposes.

THE WINCH, should be a multiplying one, as it winds up the line three times as fast as a common one, and should be capable of holding about 30 yards for the Fly Rod, or 40 yards of silk line for Trolling. For Salmon your line should be 60 yards long, and Winch in proportion.

THE RUNNING LINE should be for Fly-fishing, made of good horse and mohair wove together; at the end of which have a loop about half an inch long, to fasten your gut lengthener to, (which should be about two yards and a half long, taper, and strong in proportion to the fish you expect to catch;) at each end of the lengthener you must have a loop, one to slip your running line through, and then put the other through the loop in the running line, draw the gut all through, and it will be fast; do the same with your fly to the bottom loop when you want to use it. The Trolling Line should be made of plaited silk, which is better and more durable than any other.



FLOATS are made of different kinds. Where the stream runs slow and not very deep, a porcupine's quill, (fig.1) with a cap at each end, is as good as any, it must be short, and as thick in the middle as you can get it; they are so formed by nature that they offer little resistance to the water when a fish bites. For Roach, Dace, &c. you must always use as fine a tipped cap float as the stream will suffer to pass steadily along, see Fig. 2. I should recommend a tipped cap float, either of quills or reeds, for all purposes, except Live bait-fishing for Jack; then a large cork float is necessary, so that the bait may not be able to swim away with it, see Fig. 3.

THE PLUMMET is a piece of lead, cast with a ring at the top, and some cork to stick the point of the hook in the bottom. When used, place your float so that when your plumb touches the bottom, the top of your float may be an inch above the water.

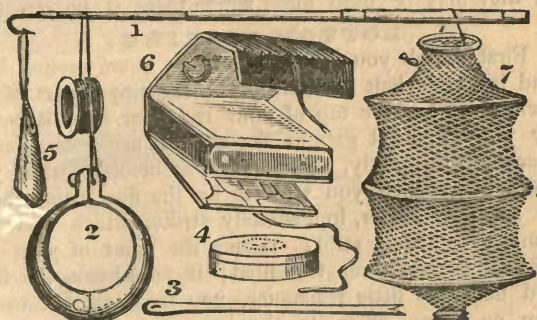


THE HOOK should be in proportion to the size of the bait, and the mouth of the fish you are trying to catch, taking care not to have it too large.

THE LINE for Bottom-fishing, should not be above three feet longer than the water is deep, in order that you may not have too much line between the top of your rod and the float. I should recommend it to be made of good single hair, or gut.

The following articles will be found necessary. Some CUT SHOT, large and small; a few CAPS; a sufficient quantity of spare HOOKS tied on; a skein of fine, and coarse SILK, with some WAX, for repairs.

A Landing Net, or Hook, No. 1; A Clearing RING, No. 2; A DISGORGER, No. 3; A TIN BOX to put your gentles in, No. 4; A BAG, with damp moss for worms, No. 5; and a POCKET BOOK for the purpose of holding all the smaller articles in a compact form, No. 6. Some persons use a DRUM NET, No. 7, to keep the fish alive while they are angling.



BAITS.

GENTLES. Those from a bullock's liver are the best. **PASTE** should be made of the crumb of bread dipped in water, and well worked up into a dough with clean hands; observe, this is a tender bait, and must be used with caution, otherwise you will jerk it off. The next bait is **GREAVES**; these should be soaked in warm water; (if you are in a hurry, let the water be boiling;) then pick out the whitest pieces for your hook; this is the best bait for Barbel, but inferior to the Gentle for most other fish.

WORMS. The small lively Marsh, or flat-tailed worm, is the most generally successful for Trout, Tench, Carp, Perch, Barble, and Chub: The Red worm is more favourable for small fish: The Blood worm is the best bait for Gudgeons, and Prussian Carp: The Brandling is only good for Perch. In baiting with a worm, take care you have not too much of it hanging loose, or they will take it without the hook.

For Ground Bait, have a stale loaf well soak'd, then squeeze the water out, and mix it with bran: this should be made into small balls, (and a stone put

in each ball to sink it, if the stream runs fast;) this is good ground bait for Roach, Dace, Chub, &c. You may mix this before you start.

Greaves and Bran, mixt with Clay, is the best for Barbel. Note, always throw your ground bait in at the top of the swim; the stream will wash it down fast enough.

I prefer Carrion Gentles mixt with Clay and Bran, or they may be used loose where there is no stream.

BOTTOM FISHING.

First plumb your depth, throw in some ground bait, and let your bait fall gently, in the upper part of the swim, keeping the top of your rod over it as it passes by you; when it gets as far as you can conveniently reach, strike gently, and proceed as before. when you get a bite, which you will see by the float being shook or snatched under, immediately strike, which is to be done by a smart stroke, raising the point of your rod perpendicularly over the float; if you hook the fish, and he offers little resistance, you may proceed to lift him on shore, or in to the boat, but if a large one, and he rushes forward upon feeling the hook, you must let him have more line, until he suffers himself to be turned by less force; you must then keep him tight, pulling him towards you when opportunity offers, and when he again plunges, easing your hand towards him, that he may not break your tackle; by following this plan you may soon tire him out; then do not attempt to lift him with your line, but use your landing net.

In POND FISHING, the principal causes of success are ground-bait, a fine bottom, a clean lively bait, and undisturbed water. If you are baiting with a red worm, and there are Bream, Rudd, and many other fish in the water, use a strong No. 9 or 10 hook.

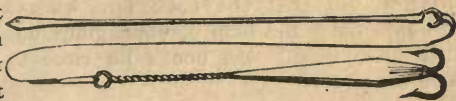
For taking Carp and Tench in spawning time see "The Carp." When the pond has many small fish, you may use a single hair line, with two hooks.

Where fresh water runs in is a good place to angle.

TROLLING FOR PIKE.

The most easy, and successful method is with the gorge-hook. To use this you must have a baiting

needle, see the cut,) which enter at the mouth of the bait, pass it all through the body, & bring it out



at the tail, dragging the gimp and hooks through after it, placing the points so as not to project beyond the fish; then tie some thread round the tail, to prevent its tearing when it catches the weeds; now add this



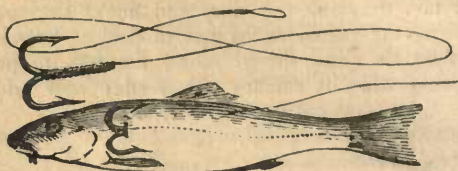
to your line and all is ready. Having your bait prepared, proceed to cast it forth into such places as you think likely to contain a fish, letting it dive to the bottom, then draw it up gently, so as just to cause it to twirl round as it rises, let it sink again, and proceed as before, till the line is close to you.

When you get a bite which you will perceive by the bait being suddenly pulled, held fast, or sometimes only shook; immediately hold the point of your rod down, and with the left hand keep two or three yards of loose line ready, that he may not be checked when he runs. If he lies still two or three minutes, shakes the line, and runs again, you may wind in the loose line, and strike. When exhausted lead him to a suitable spot, and land him. Observe, when a Pike is on the feed, you can hardly lose him by any other means than not giving him time enough.

When the water is high or thick, they lie close in shore among sedges, under trees, on shallows where there is little stream, &c.

The most approved LIVE BAIT is used as follows: to a foot of gimp, not too coarse, fix a double or two single hooks, No. 5, at the other end of which make a small loop; then take your baiting needle which for this purpose must be fine, and enter it on the upper

part of the side of the bait fish, near the gills, and bring it out past the back fin, when the needle is through, hang the loop of your gimp on it, and draw that after it till the hooks lie close to the bait, as here shewn;



Your float should be placed on your silk line, as should your shots or bullet to keep the fish down, before you affix the bait. When you have a bite, which you will know by your float being taken under, loosen the line, and act the same as before described.

The snap hook is used with a dead bait, and without a float, similar to the first gorge hook, only baited thus.



The one shows the tackle out of the bait, the other in.

GENERAL REMARKS. Windy weather (if from the west or south) suits both Jack and Perch, but they like the quietest parts. In January, February, and March, the Jack are in pairs: at which time, if you take one, put on a fresh bait, and try close by for the other. During these months they feed eagerly; and mark this, a Jack always takes a bait across his mouth generally by the body, and swallows it head first.

Many large Pike are also taken with a live bait attach'd to a Trimmer, or large floating cork.

FLY FISHING.

In Throwing a FLY, the most common fault of a young beginner is, not waiting while the line takes its sweep round after drawing it off the water; he mostly returns it too quick, which causes it either to fall in the water all of a heap, or smack like a whip and lose his fly. The best thing he can do is to observe one who has experience in the art; let him then take a light rod, and let out 8 or 9 yards of line, with a small palmer, and throw across or down the stream, until he can feel some confidence in the direction it will fall, taking care at the same time, that as little line as possible falls on the water with it; when he can manage this well, he may let out another yard or two of line, and so on, till he can command the water he frequents. A light rod with from 16 to 20 yards of line thrown straight forth, and lightly on the stream, will be more likely to succeed than a greater quantity managed with less skill.

When you commence, get the wind at your back if possible, as it will much assist you; if you get a rise strike quick, but not hard, as the least motion of the hand will hook him. If a Trout you may both see and feel him, as they often take it quick enough to hook themselves. The slowest fish is a Chub.

If you hook a fish, do not lift him out with your rod, as raising one pound that way will strain it more than killing a fish of seven. The most likely places to succeed with a fly, are mill-tails, weirs, scours, where two rivers join, or at the edge of a bed of weeds where the water runs fast. I here allude to Salmon, Trout, Grayling, or Dace; but Chub delight in deep still holes under trees, &c.

A LIST OF THE MOST USEFUL FLIES.

May Flies	Black Gnats
Red, Black, Peacock, White,	Red Spinners
and other Palmers	Red and Black Ant flies
Blue Dun	Brown and White Moths
Stone fly	Pale Blue
Hardings fly, or Coachman	Willow fly
Humble Bee	and March Brown.

FLY MAKING



Red Spinner.

Ant.

Gnat.

ARTICLES NECESSARY FOR FLY MAKING.

Mohairs, Camlets, and Sheeps wool, of all colors; the furs from a squirrel, mole, hare, water-rat, &c. Feathers from a wild drake, peacock, pheasant, starling, landrail, thrush, blackbird, jay, plover, ostrich, and the feathers of a blue dun color'd hen, which are scarce.

The hackles from the neck and saddle of a cock; these you must have of every color; those of a dark game cock are most generally useful; Silks of all colors; flat gold and silver wire; white and dark wax; and a pair of small scissors.

Now to make a PALMER, you must look out your gut; hooks, No.6; some red silk, waxed with bees-wax; some strippings of black ostrich feather, and a few fine red hackles; then take the hook, whip it to the right three or four times round the shank; after which take the gut, and lay the end along it till it reaches the bend, thus; now hold it tight, and give it three or four whips more over the hook and gut, till it comes to the end; then whip it back again regular and even, all the way down to the bend; make a loop, and fasten, thus; -----

if the gut reach farther than the bend cut it off and wax the longest end of the silk again.

Now take three or four strands of an ostrich feather, and hold them and the hook together in

one hand, whip them three or four times round, with the silk

you wax'd, last, make a loop and

fasten off; then twist the strands

round the silk, wind them up

the shank, make a loop and fasten

again; now take your scissors,

and cut the palmer's body to an oval form, taking care not

to cut too much away. Wax that end of the silk next the bend

of the hook, take the hackle, stroke the fibres back in this manner,

place the point in the bend of the hook, thus-----

and whip it firm.

This being done, take the hackle

by the large end, and wind it

gradually up the body, stopping at

every second turn, and holding what

you have wound tight with your left

fingers, whilst with a needle, you



pick what fibres may have been taken in; proceed in this manner until you come to the place where you first fastened, and where an end of the silk is; then clip those fibres off the hackle which you hold between your fore-finger and thumb, close to the stem, and hold the stem close to the hook; afterwards take the silk in your right hand, and whip the stem quite fast to it; then make a loop, and fasten it tight; take a sharp knife, and if that part of the stem next the shank of the hook be as long as the part of the hook which is bare, pare it fine; wax your silk; bind neatly over the bare part of the hook; then fasten the silk tight and spread shoemaker's wax lightly on the last binding; now clip off the remaining silk at the shank and bend of the hook, and also any fibres that may stand amiss. The quantity of ostrich and hackle, must depend upon the size of the hook you dress. If you want a ribbed body, tie your gold twist in with the ostrich fibre: wind the ostrich up the shank first, and then the gold twist after, making them both fast together, thus: ---

If ever the winged flies supersede the Palmer, it is in clear water during the middle of the day. The white moth is a likely one towards dusk; but even here, a large white rough Palmer, will answer.



To make a Winged Fly. First, wind the silk three or four times round the hook, then over both gut and hook, as firm as the strength of the silk will permit, take the wings, (which you ought to strip off and divide into a sufficient quantity for each fly, before you begin,) whip the silk about the root of the feather, gut, and hook, cut off the root-end of the feather, whip the silk fast about the hook and gut till you come to the bend of it; now if the gut goes beyond, cut it off, and make all fast; then take the dubbing, twist it between your finger and thumb, thus:— and wind it round till you come to the setting on of the wing; divide the feather into two equal parts, and turn them back towards the bend of the hook, one on each side of the shank, bind the silk across them till you make them stand properly; then proceed with the body as before described.

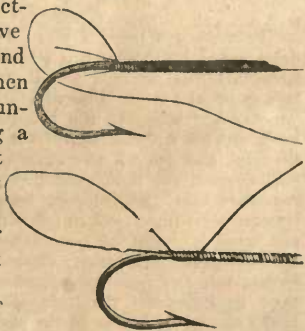


The before-mentioned plan will answer for all winged flies; the only difference consists in the size of the hook and material used. Sometimes a piece of hackle or feather is bound near the head of the fly under the wings, to imitate the legs, as is here shown in the white moth. - - - - -

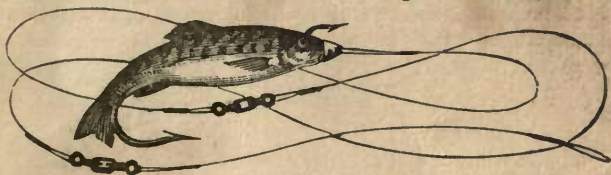
In page 22, I have given a list of the flies most approved of near London. But observe some parts of England produce flies not found in others.

It is well to notice the spot where a fish rises, then cast your fly about a yard beyond him, and as much above as you see necessary, so that the stream will let you draw it across the place, then in all probability he will take it. A few well scoured marsh worms will often enable you to take a brace or two of fish that you would not otherwise have caught; for instance when they are cutting weeds, or letting go a flood-gate, hook a worm on as at these times they rush eagerly forward to devour what may be washed down, the top of the water being foul you would not be able to use your fly at this time. For Chub use a large fly.

In tying a hook, you must follow the directions given for making a palmer, in page 23, down to fig. 2, then cut off the first end of the silk, and the small piece of gut or hair projecting from where you have now bound up to, and bind one or two turns more; then lay the end of the silk under the last turn, having a loop sufficiently large to let the bend of the hook pass through each time you turn it round the shank; after you have passed it about four or five times thus,---you may draw the end of the silk till the loop disappear, cut the end off close, and it will be all fast.



Many fine Trout and other fish are taken by means of a minnow baited thus; the large hook is passed



all through the fish, the small one, through the lips; if the minnow spins well when drawn against the stream, it is right, if not, bend the tail till it does.

When you have an accident with your Rod, cut the broken parts smooth, in a slanting direction to fit each other thus;--



then with some waxed silk, thread, or fine twine, bind it slanting towards your right hand



as is here shown;

now bind it over this, regular and close together, all the way back till you get past the join; then take the first end of the silk, lay it so as to form a loop, and



bind the other four or five times more, put it through the loop, draw the loop end tight, and all is fast.



REMARKS ON THE SEASONS

MOST FAVORABLE TO THE
A N G L E R .

JANUARY. In the middle of the day you may take Jack, Chub, or Roach; if the water is clear, and the weather mild for the season.

FEBRUARY. You should fish in shallower water, near the banks, where there is a stream. Towards the latter end you may retire till the fish have spawn'd.

MARCH. The Trout in the West of England, begin now to rise at the flies, &c. You may also take Chub, Perch, Dace, & Gudgeons: but generally speaking it is a bad month for angling, except for Trout or Salmon.

APRIL. The Trout and Dace, sport on the shallows after the early flies. This is also a very good month for Perch in rivers.

MAY. Is the best month for Trout, as it is likewise for Pond-fishing; but with the exception of Gudgeons, Eels, and Perch, you may leave off Bottom-fishing till July.

Towards the end of this month the may-fly comes in, and lasts till the middle or end of June, in the course of which time you may take plenty of fish in nearly all parts of England.

JUNE. The Trout near London are now in their prime, but, in the early rivers they fall off. This is a good month for pond fishing, and also for fly fishing.

JULY. The same as June.

AUGUST. You must be at the water-side by daylight in the morning or in the evening; the fish will not feed during the middle of the day, unless cloudy and cool: the fish in season are Roach, Dace, Perch, Barbel, Jack, Bream, Carp, and Tench.

SEPTEMBER. You must still fish early and late. If the days are hot, and the water very clear, you will find them in the deeper parts. after this month I would not recommend Pond-fishing, except for Jack.

OCTOBER. Is favourable for Bottom-fishing in the rivers round London, (fly-fishing is over.) The fish get in the deeps, and feed eagerly; Barbel and Dace excepted.

NOVEMBER. The same as October.

DECEMBER. The same as January.

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